

Ranger District Office at the junction of State Route 321 and State Route 59 South, Marshburg, PA. (R.S.V.P by calling 814-362-4613). There will also be an opportunity for the public to ask questions and make suggestions to the ID Team.

**Comment Requested:** This notice of intent initiates the scoping process, which guides the development of the environmental impact statement. Your comments will help the Forest Service refine and enhance the list of issues that are considered when analyzing alternatives to the proposed action. When this analysis is nearly complete, the Draft EIS will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and become available for public review (expected by November 2005). At that time the Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability of the document in the **Federal Register** (this will begin the 45-day comment period on the Draft EIS). After the comment period ends on the Draft EIS, the comments will be analyzed and considered by the Forest Service in preparing the final environmental impact statement. The Final EIS and Record of Decision are scheduled for release in May 2006.

Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and may be subject to public disclosure. Any person may request the Agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality.

The Forest Service believes it is important to give reviewers notice at this early stage of several court rulings related to public participation in the environmental review process. First, reviewers of draft environmental impact statements must structure their participation in the environmental review of the proposal so that it is meaningful and alerts an agency to the reviewer's position and contentions (*Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Corp. v. NRDC*, 435 U.S. 519 553 [1978]). Also, environmental objections that could be raised at the draft environmental impact statement stage but that are not raised until after completion of the final environmental impact statement stage may be waived or dismissed by the courts *City of Angoon v. Hodel*, 803 F.2nd 1016, 1022 [9th Cir. 1986] and *MDSU Wisconsin Heritages, Inc. v. Harris*, 490 F. Supp. 1334, 1338 [E.D. Wis. 1980].

Because of the above rulings, it is very important that those interested in this proposed action participate by the close of the 45-day comment period so that

substantive comments are made available to the Forest Service at a time when they can be meaningfully considered and responded to in the final environmental impact statement. Comments on the draft environmental impact statement should be as specific as possible. It is also helpful if comments refer to specific pages, sections, or chapters of the draft statement. Comments may also address the adequacy of the draft environmental impact statement or the merits of the alternatives formulated and discussed in the statement. Reviewers may wish to refer to Council on Environmental Quality *Regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act* at 40 CFR 1503.3 in addressing these points.

This decision will be subject to appeal under 36 CFR 215. The responsible official is John R. Schultz, Bradford Ranger District, 29 Forest Service Drive, Bradford, PA 16701.

Dated: January 27, 2005.

**Kevin B. Elliott,**

*Forest Supervisor.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Mendocino Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Mendocino County Resource Advisory Committee will meet February 18, 2005, (RAC) in Willits, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Approval of minutes, (2) Public Comment, (3) Sub-committees, (4) Discussion/approval of projects, (5) Old Business, (6) Matters before the group-discussion only, and (7) Next agenda and meeting date.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on February 18, 2005, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Mendocino County Museum, located at 400 E. Commercial St., Willits, California.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roberta Hurt, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Covelo Ranger District, 78150 Covelo Road, Covelo CA 95428. (707) 983-8503; e-mail [rhurt@fs.fed.us](mailto:rhurt@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public. Persons who wish to bring matters to the

attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff by May 18, 2004. Public comment will have the opportunity to address the committee at the meeting.

Dated: January 24, 2005.

**Blaine Baker,**

*Designated Federal Official.*

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**BILLING CODE 3410-11-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** The Tehama County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) will meet in Red Bluff, California. Agenda items to be covered include: (1) Introductions, (2) Approval of Minutes, (3) Public Comment, (4) Restructure of Sub-Committees, (5) Project Proposals, (6) Review of Projects Funded to Date, (7) General Discussion, (8) County Supervisor's Update, and (9) Next Agenda.

**DATES:** The meeting will be held on February 10, 2005 from 9 a.m. and end at approximately 12 p.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the Lincoln Street School, Conference Room A, 1135 Lincoln Street, Red Bluff, CA. Individuals wishing to speak or propose agenda items must send their names and proposals to Jim Giachino, DFO, 825 N. Humboldt Avenue, Willows, CA 95988.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Bobbin Gaddini, Committee Coordinator, USDA, Mendocino National Forest, Grindstone Ranger District, PO Box 164, Elk Creek, CA 95939. (530) 968-5329; e-mail [ggaddini@fs.fed.us](mailto:ggaddini@fs.fed.us).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The meeting is open to the public.

Committee discussion is limited to Forest Service staff and Committee members. However, persons who wish to bring matters to the attention of the Committee may file written statements with the Committee staff before or after the meeting. Public input sessions will be provided and individuals who made written requests by February 8, 2005 will have the opportunity to address the committee at those sessions.